

Governor's Message



Virginia's natural resources are second to none. From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, from the Shenandoah Valley to the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia State Parks offer the best outdoor opportunities in the Commonwealth. Virginia State Parks are special places where we can leave behind life's daily pressures and reconnect with nature, with our families and with our past.

Virginia State Parks are natural, cultural and recreational treasures offering something for everyone - 34 state parks and 40 natural areas, hundreds of campsites and cabins, and miles of trails. Our state parks offer a wide range of stimulating and educational activities, workshops, festivals, programs, concerts and natural wonders.

In 2002 Virginia voters overwhelmingly approved the \$119 million Commonwealth of Virginia Parks and Natural Areas General Obligation Bond. The bond provides for the acquisition of land for at least three new state parks and additional land for 11 existing parks and 10 new natural area preserves. Starting this year, and in the years to come, Virginians will enjoy new recreational resources, new or improved cabins, campgrounds, visitor centers and other offerings. Staff time previously devoted to maintaining worn-out infrastructure will be spent helping visitors better enjoy our parks and the natural world around us.

Please accept my personal invitation to visit Virginia's award winning state parks. If you're an old friend, then you know why our parks are special. If you haven't visited in a few years or have never been to a Virginia State Park, now is the time to see what you've been missing.

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- Mark R. Warner Governor of Virginia

At a Glance

Virginia State Parks offer a variety of programs, events and activities that allow you to explore nature and history every day of the year. Our 34 state parks have trails, beaches, scenic picnics spots, interpretive programs, visitor centers, museums, gift shops and more to make your visit special. With so much to see and do, Virginia State Parks are perfect for a short, relaxing picnic or a two-week vacation. The comfortable cabins and lodges, clean campgrounds and convenient meeting facilities ensure that your park experience doesn't have to end at sundown.

Special Discounts

With everything we offer, Virginia State Parks are still among the most affordable and economical vacation destinations around. Special discount passes and annual passes for parking, boat launching and swimming are for sale at parks statewide. Senior discount passes are also available. Virginia residents receive a 10 percent discount on cabin rates.

Trails

More than 450 miles of trails of varying difficulty crisscross Virginia's state parks, giving hikers a chance to explore hardwood forests, coastal marshes and flowering meadows. Self-guided trails introduce visitors to the natural and cultural history of these areas while informational markers supply interesting and educational information.

Horseback riders, mountain bikers and bicyclists will find miles of bridle and bike trails in state parks all across Virginia.

Boating and Fishing

Virginia State Parks offer access to the commonwealth's four largest lakes as well as most major rivers, the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. Smaller, man-made lakes in a number of parks are known for healthy populations of smallmouth bass, trout, crappie and bream. At Douthat Lake, fish for stocked trout for a daily fee.

A Virginia state fishing license is required to fish in most state park waters. Annual boat launch passes are available and offer significant savings to frequent visitors with boats.

Picnicking

From an impromptu picnic to a special occasion, all parks have picnic tables and grills for outdoor dining. Picnic shelters and gazebos are available at most parks for any special outdoor gathering. Shelters are available for rent, and reservations can be made by calling the Reservation Center. When not reserved, most shelters are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis, year-round

Swimming

A relaxing dip in our lakes and pools is a favorite summer activity for the young and the young at heart. Swimming beaches and pools at 16 state parks, complemented by sunbathing areas, clean bathhouses and concession facilities, are generally open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

All overnight guests have free swimming privileges, except group cabin visitors at Pocahontas State Park. A small fee is charged to day visitors. Season passes and discounted swimming tickets offer significant savings for frequent visitors.

Camping and Cabins

Camping facilities are available in 22 parks, and 10 parks have cabins. Overnight accommodations are perfect for family vacations, hunting and fishing trips, outdoor enthusiasts and memorable weekend getaways.

Virginia State Parks offer everything from primitive canoe- or hike-in campgrounds to RV sites. Contact the Reservation Center for specific information.

Environmental Education

Virginia State Parks are the commonwealth's premier environmental education locations. School, scout and other civic groups are encouraged to come learn more about their great outdoors. "Backyard Classroom" programs, incorporating Virginia's Standards of Learning, promote lifelong learning about Virginia's environment, natural wonders and historic treasures. They also help young people develop an enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of Virginia's great outdoors.

False Cape State Park's Wash Woods Environmental Education Center offers overnight facilities for schools and groups of up to 20 interested in coastal barrier spit ecosystems or the cultural history of Virginia's Outer Banks.

Natural Tunnel's Cove Ridge Center has overnight accommodations for up to 48 guests or students interested in studying Southwest Virginia's ecology, the unique karst topography and the region's rich cultural history.

Natural and Cultural History

Virginia State Parks are more than beautiful; they're educational, too. Visitor centers at more than two dozen parks help guests learn more about the natural and cultural history of the area and the commonwealth.

Several parks feature painstakingly-restored centuries-old buildings. Tour an Antebellum mansion at Chippokes Plantation State Park, a 19th Century farmhouse at Sky Meadows State Park or visit an 1890s Victorian mansion at the Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park in Big Stone Gap. Witness a Civil War reenactment at Sailor's Creek or Staunton River Battlefield state parks. Learn about the operations of a historic shot tower and visit the century-old mining town of Foster Falls at New River Trail State Park, or tour a 1700s gold mine at Lake Anna State Park.

A trip to a Virginia State Park is an opportunity to observe wildlife in diverse habitats, and all parks are part of the new Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail.

Throughout the spring, summer and fall, most parks offer a wide variety of nature and history programs for the whole family.

Outdoor Adventures Programs

Learn to take wildlife photographs. Hone your skills at a fly-fishing school. Pan for gold or learn to backpack like the experts. Many state parks offer special programs and classes that help participants better understand, appreciate and enjoy the outdoors.

Programs like these and many more are offered throughout the year at most state parks. Fees are charged for many of the special programs, while others are offered free of charge.

Meeting and Event Facilities

Weddings, reunions, meetings, conferences, retreats - Virginia State Parks are perfect for your next event. A state parks reservation counselor can assist with planning a special event in a state park.

The nationally acclaimed Hemlock Haven Conference Center at Hungry Mother State Park in southwestern Virginia offers meeting space for groups as large as 375 with many special amenities. Cedar Crest Conference Center at Twin Lakes State Park in central Virginia offers meeting space and teleconferencing capabilities in a picturesque setting for up to 90. Both have accommodations for overnight groups.

The Cove Ridge Center at New River Trail is ideal for training workshops, meetings and retreats. Its auditorium accommodates up to 100, and two other rooms can be reserved for groups of up to 24. Two six-room dormitories can sleep up to 48 overnight guests.

The Jones-Stewart Mansion at Chippokes Plantation State Park, Bel Air Mansion, home of Governor Pollard, at Belle Isle State Park, and Karlan Mansion at Wilderness Road State Park are just three historic, picturesque locations for weddings and family reunions. Meeting facilities are also found at Belle Isle, Douthat, Fairy Stone, Natural Tunnel, Pocahontas, Sky Meadows, Southwest Virginia Museum and Westmoreland state parks.

Hunting

Open hunting is usually offered in designated areas of Fairy Stone, Grayson Highlands, Hungry Mother, Occoneechee and Pocahontas state parks. Special resource management hunts are held in Caledon, Chippokes Plantation, False Cape, Grayson Highlands, James River, Kiptopeke, Mason Neck, Smith Mountain Lake and York River state parks. Overnight accommodations make excellent base camps for hunting in nearby wildlife management areas and national forests.

Equipment Rentals

Horse concessions operate at Shenandoah River and New River Trail state parks. Many parks rent canoes, rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks, hydro-bikes and mountain bikes.



Pets

Pets are welcome in Virginia State Parks but must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet, or in an enclosed area at all times. A fee must be paid for pets staying overnight in cabins and at campgrounds. Pets aren't allowed in lodges, the Bel Air Mansion and guest house at Belle Isle State Park, or the cabins at Chippokes Plantation State Park. Pets are not allowed through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge to False Cape State Park April 1 through Oct. 31.

Park Accessibility

Virginia State Parks strive to make each park as barrier-free as possible. Parks with facilities for people with disabilities are designated in the chart at the end of this booklet. Contact the Reservation Center or individual parks for more information before your trip.

Civilian Conservation Corps

Between 1933 and 1941, the Civilian Conservation Corps left an undeniable imprint on the nation's landscape. The CCC planted trees, improved beaches and



roads, and created 800 state parks, including six in Virginia. The parks built by the CCC are noted with a special logo which is also posted on historic buildings in the parks. The CCC museum at Pocahontas State Park celebrates the achievements of the dedicated workers.

VIRGINIA LOVES CAMPERS

Virginia Loves Campers is a partnership between Virginia State Parks and the Virginia Campground Association. Our mountains, lakes, Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean beaches make Virginia one of America's best camping destinations. This partnership helps us better serve and inform campers of the unparalleled natural, cultural and recreational resources in our great commonwealth. For a complete listing of Virginia's private campgrounds, visit www.virginiacampgrounds.org.

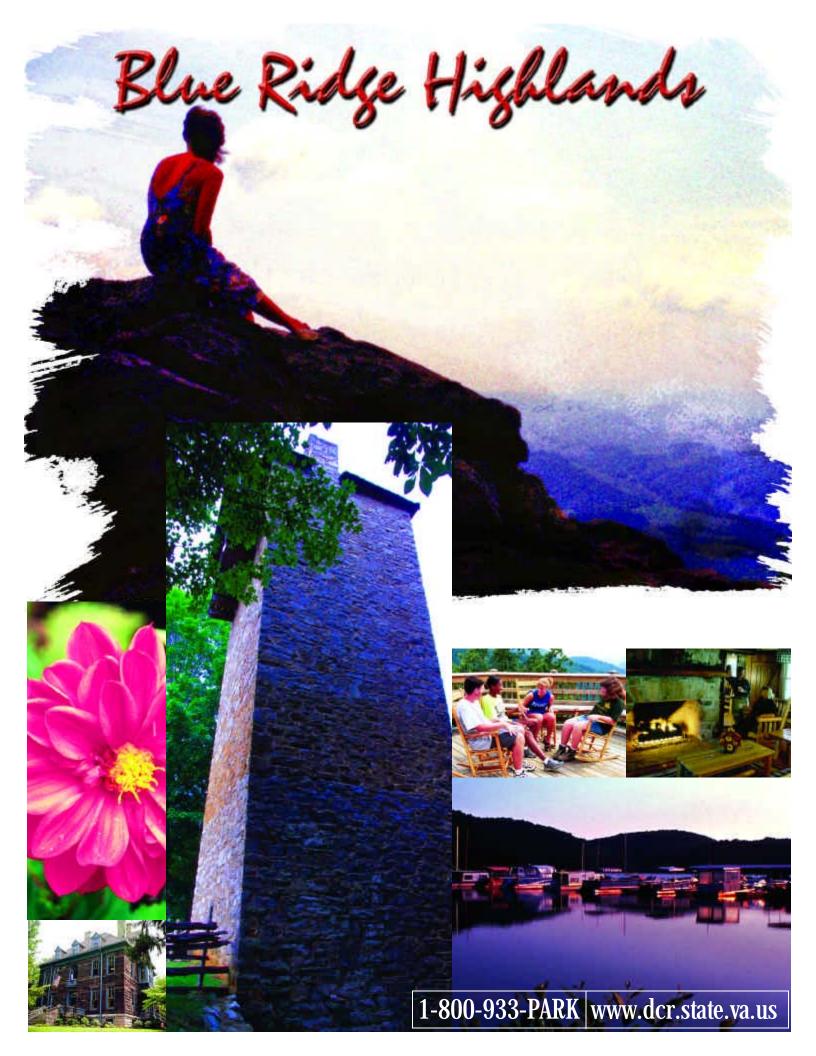
Be a Contributor

Virginians can make a tax-deductible donation to their parks, both state and local, and to their natural areas by contributing all or part of their state tax refund to the Open Space Recreation and Conservation Fund. See your Virginia state tax return form for more information.

Be a Volunteer

We value the commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers and will work with you to find a position to fit your interests, schedule and experience. Thousands of volunteers contributed more than 120,000 volunteer hours last year.

The opportunities for volunteering in a park are many, and the rewards are great. For more information, contact any state park or call 1-800-933-PARK.



Breaks Interstate Park

Located on the Virginia-Kentucky border, off VA-KY State Route 80, the park features the largest canyon east of the Mississippi. Sometimes called the "Grand Canyon of the South," the spectacular beauty of the park can be seen along the hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding trails, and while boating and fishing on Laurel Lake. In October, water is released from Flanagan Reservoir, creating world-class white water that draws people from around the world to the Russell Fork River. The park has a restaurant and conference center near the rim of the canyon as well as 70 lodge rooms and four vacation cottages. For information or reservations, call (540) 865-4413.

Claytor Lake State Park

An ideal setting for boating, swimming, camping, hiking and picnicking. Sport fishing is especially popular. Boating supplies, fuel and refreshments are available at the marina. Twelve cabins overlook the 4,500-acre lake. The historic Howe House features interactive exhibits describing the ecology of the lake and surrounding areas.

Special event: Arts and Crafts Festival, Labor Day weekend. **Under construction:** New cabins, lodge and marina complex. **Location:** Off Interstate 81 (exit 101) near Dublin in Pulaski County.

Grayson Highlands State Park

Near Mount Rogers and Whitetop Mountain, Virginia's two highest mountains, here you'll enjoy scenic views of alpine-like peaks more than 5,000 feet high. Facilities include a recently renovated visitor center, campgrounds and hiking trails leading to waterfalls and overlooks. Scenic horse trails and a horse camping area with electric and water hookups, stables and parking for trailers are available. The park provides access to the Appalachian Trail and the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail year-round.

Special events: Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival and Guitar Competition the third Saturday in June, Grayson Highlands Fall Festival the last full weekend in September.

Under construction: Renovations to the visitor center. **Location:** Interstate 81 to exit 45 in Marion, then Route 16 to Volney and west on U.S. 58.

Hungry Mother State Park

Long a family favorite and known for its beautiful woodlands and placid 108-acre lake in the heart of the mountains, Hungry Mother features a sandy beach with bathhouse, boats (fishing, canoe, kayak, and paddle) and boat launch, universally accessible fishing pier, campgrounds, cabins, gift shop, visitor center, six-bedroom guest lodge that sleeps 15, hiking and biking trails and a fantastic restaurant.

Hungry Mother also is home to the famous Hemlock Haven Conference Center, available for retreats, conferences and special events. Catering is also available.

Special events: Mountain Do Triathlon in April, Hungry Mother Arts and Crafts Festival third weekend in July, S.C.A.L.E. Family Fun Day first Saturday in June, and the Fall Fear Mountain Bike Race in October. **Location:** 4 miles north of Marion on State Route 16.

Natural Tunnel State Park

More than 850 feet long and as high as a 10-story building, Natural Tunnel was naturally carved through a limestone ridge over thousands of centuries. William Jennings Bryan called it the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Other scenic features include a wide chasm between steep stone walls surrounded by several pinnacles or "chimneys."

Facilities include a campground, picnic areas, amphitheater, visitor center and gift shop, historical blockhouse, swimming pool and chair lift to the tunnel floor. The park also offers cave tours and canoe trips on the Clinch River, as well as the Cove Ridge Center, which offers environmental education, conferencefacilities and overnight dormac commodations.

Special events: "Pickin' In Park" semi-monthly in the main season and monthly Candlelight Series January through April.

Location: North from Weber City via U.S. 23, then 1 mile east on Route 871.

New River Trail State Park

New River Trail is a 57-mile linear park that follows an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The park parallels the scenic and historic New River for 40 miles and links several other recreational areas, including the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail. The gentle slope of the trail makes it great for visitors of all ages to hike, bike and ride horseback. Portions of the park include horse, canoe and bike rentals, boat launches, gift shops and a concession stand. Fishing is popular, and primitive camping sites are at various sites along the trail.

Special events: Wythe County Days is held in the historic Foster Falls complex in conjunction with Virginia's New River Trail Challenge Triathlon in September.

Location: There are access points to the trail at Ivanhoe, Fries, Galax, Cliffview, Draper, Pulaski and Foster Falls.

Shot Tower Historic State Park

Overlooking the New River, adjacent to New River Trail State Park, the shot tower was built more than 190 years ago to make ammunition for firearms of the early settlers.

Lead from the nearby Austinville Mines was melted in a kettle at the top of the 75-foot tower, poured through a sieve, and would fall through a shaft into a kettle of water beneath the tower. Visitors may ascend the tower, which is a National Historic Landmark. Picnic facilities, restrooms and a hiking trail are available.

Location: Take Exit 24 on Interstate 77 and go north on Route 52 for 2 miles

Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park

Dedicated in 1948, the Southwest Virginia Museum in Big Stone Gap chronicles the exploration and development of the region. The museum houses a collection of items from the region. The collection was started by C. B. Slemp, who served in Congress from 1907 to 1923 and was President Coolidge's personal secretary.

A lovely Victorian parlor in the four-story mansion is available to rent for meetings and other small gatherings. The gift shop features many one-of-a-kind items.

Special events: A Stitch in Time: Quilt Show in April through May 31, Fall Antique Appraisal, the Festival of Trees in mid-November through Dec. 31. **Location:** At 10 West First St. and Wood Ave. (Alt. Route 58), just off Route 23 in Big Stone Gap.

Wilderness Road State Park

Purchased in 1993, Wilderness Road State Park offers approximately 200 acres for picnicking, hiking and living history programs. Visitors can enjoy the reconstructed Martin's Station, an outdoor living history museum and seasonal living history programs depicting life on Virginia's 1775 frontier as well as hike the 12-mile Wilderness Road Trail linking the park with 50 miles of trails within Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

The late 1870s mansion is available for weddings, meetings and other special functions. Unique regional gifts are available at the Wilderness Road Outpost.

Special events: Raid at Martin's Station in May, and Wilderness Road Festival in October.

Under construction: New visitor center including theater, museum, gift shop, reception center and supporting offices. Three picnic shelters, playground, comfort station and additional park land acquisitions.

Location: 5 miles west of Ewing, off U.S. 58, at the intersection of Route 923.



James River State Park

Visitors can hike, bike, canoe, fish or camp along the banks of the historic James River or scenic Branch Pond. The park features 1,500 acres of rolling grasslands, quiet forest and beautiful vistas, as well as three miles along the banks of the James River. Facilities include a nature center and gift shop, picnic shelters, boat launches, two primitive campgrounds, equestrian camping, a universally accessible fishing pier and a quarter-mile long wheel-chair accessible trail around Green Hill Pond. Horseback riders can camp and ride on 15 miles of horse friendly trails. The park is a great place to watch batteaux float by during the James River Bateau Festival, and a historic bateau is on display near Green Hill Pond.

Under construction: Campground and cabins.

Location: Buckingham County. From Route 60 West, turn right on Route 605 at the James River Bridge. Go 7 miles and turn left at Route 606.

Occoneechee State Park

Named for Native Americans who lived in the area for hundreds of years, Occoneechee is on the John H. Kerr Reservoir, better known as Buggs Island Lake, and is extremely popular with anglers and boaters. Facilities include campsites, picnic shelters, an amphitheater, a playground, boat ramps and a private concessionaire offering boat and water ski rentals, and snacks. The park also has a 15-mile round trip (seven-mile linear) multi-purpose trail for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

The visitor center introduces visitors to Native American culture and the indigenous Occoneechee people.

Special event: Native American Heritage Festival and Powwow in May. **Location:** 1.5 miles east of Clarksville on U.S. 58.

Pocahontas State Park

Just 20 miles from downtown Richmond, Pocahontas offers boating, picnicking, camping, hiking, and a wide range of interpretive and environmental education programs. The Aqua Center offers seasonal water-based activities for the entire family including a kiddie pool, fountain wet deck, three-foot and five-foot-deep leisure pools, activity pool and two enclosed tube water slides. Rowboat, paddleboat, kayak and canoe rentals also are available during the summer in the 200-acre Swift Creek Lake. The park's two fishing lakes feature crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill and catfish. The park has more than 58 miles of trails throughout 7,724 acres open to hiking, bicycling and horseback riding.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, dedicated to the Depressionera workers who helped build the state park system, is one of few of its kind in the nation. The park's Heritage Center is available for meetings, events and seasonal performances. Group area facilities with meeting space and primitive overnight cabins also are available.

Special events: Pocahontas Amphitheater Performing Arts Series. **Location:** Chesterfield County. Take Interstate 95 to State Route 288 north, then State Route 10 east to Route 655 (Beach Road) west. Travel 3 miles on Route 655 (Beach Road) west and the park is on the right.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park

Nearly a quarter of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's army, more than 7,700 men, were killed, wounded or captured on April 6, 1865, at the battle of Sailor's Creek. Lee surrendered his army 72 hours later at Appomattox Court House.

Costumed volunteers re-enact the battle of Sailor's Creek near the historic Hillsman House, which served as a field hospital for northern and southern soldiers. Various interpretive programs are scheduled throughout the year. Contact the park for information about interpretive programs and re-enactments. Motorists traveling along Lee's Retreat can learn more about the battle by tuning their radios to AM 1610.

Location: 5 miles east of Farmville. Take State Route 307 (connecting highway between U.S. 360 and U.S. 460 at Farmville) to Route 617 north

Smith Mountain Lake State Park

Located on the second largest freshwater lake in the state, the park is a water enthusiast's paradise. In addition to a full range of water-related activities, including swimming, boat rentals, a boat ramp and a universally accessible fishing pier, families can enjoy miles of hiking trails, picnicking, a visitor center, an amphitheater, special programs, camping and cabins, some with boat docks. A golf package, in partnership with a nearby golf course, is available for cabin guests.

Special events: Ruritan Bass Fishing Tournament in March, Triathlons in May and September, Aspiring Anglers Junior Fishing Tournament in June.

Location: North shore of the lake in Bedford County. From U.S. 460, take State Route 122 south to Route 608 east to Route 626 south.

Staunton River Battlefield State Park

This park is a 300-acre Civil War historic site on which a ragtag group of 700 Confederate old men and young boys beat the odds and held off an assault of 5,000 Union cavalry on a bridge of strategic importance to Gen. Lee's army, under siege in Petersburg. Visit the Confederate earthworks or walk the historic bridge trail.

Two visitor centers feature 2,300 square feet of exhibits depicting the area's rich Civil War heritage and Native American archaeological investigations as well as electric energy production. The park includes a 1.2-mile self-guided trail through the battlefield and a three-quarter-mile nature trail with two wildlife observation towers overlooking wetlands.

Under construction: Renovations to Mulberry Hill Mansion. **Location:** 18 miles east of South Boston. Take Route 92 to Clover. Go approximately 5 miles to Route 600 and turn left. Go approximately 3 miles and turn right on Route 855.

Staunton River State Park



With acres of woods, broad meadows and a lengthy shoreline on Buggs Island Lake, the park has much to offer.

Freshwater fishing is popular with local residents as well as overnight guests. Other attractions include a large swimming pool, a "Pollywog Pond" wading pool, camping and cabins, tennis and volleyball courts, a boat launch, picnic shelters, miles of hiking trails, a multi-use trail open to hikers, bicyclists and equestrians, and a wide variety of special programs. River Traders, located outside the entrance of the park, rents canoes, kayaks, jonboats and pontoon boats.

Location: 18 miles east of South Boston. Take U.S. 360, then Route 344 for 10 miles.

Twin Lakes State Park

In the heart of central Virginia, this historic park offers a full array of cultural, environmental and recreational activities. Overnight accommodations include a campground, group camping and climate-controlled cabins. Enjoy swimming, fishing, boating and lakefront picnicking at Goodwin Lake. Hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians can take advantage of a neighboring multi-use trail developed with Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest. Cedar Crest Conference Center on Prince Edward Lake is available for family reunions, business and training meetings, wedding receptions and other gatherings.

Location: 5 miles southwest of Burkeville. Take U.S. 360 west to Prince Edward County and turn on Twin Lakes Road, State Route 621. Rt. 621 will change to Rt. 629, but the road remains Twin Lakes Rd.

1-800-933-PARK www.dcr.state.va.us



False Cape State Park

A barrier spit nestled between Back Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, False Cape is one of the few remaining undeveloped areas along the Atlantic Coast. With huge migratory bird populations and a variety of wildlife, plants and trees, the park offers a chance to experience nature in a unique setting and is a natural outdoor classroom.

The park features primitive camping, interpretive programs, hiking and biking trails, and beachcombing. Wash Woods Environmental Education Center, located directly on the bay, can accommodate day visitors as well as up to 26 overnight guests. The center has a kitchen, restrooms, showers, meeting room, library, AV equipment and a lab.

The park is accessible only by foot, bicycle, beach transport, tram or boat. Tram transportation through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge is available April 1 through Oct. 31. For tram reservations, call (757) 498-2473. Between Nov. 1 and March 31, access to the park is restricted to the beach, or by boat or the park's beach transporter only. To make reservations for the beach transporter, call 1-800-933-PARK.

Location: False Cape is Virginia's southernmost state park, its southern boundary being the North Carolina line. Southeast of Virginia Beach located at the south end of Sandbridge. No vehicular access.

First Landing State Park and Natural Area



On April 26, 1607, some 100 English settlers landed here and established the first elective government in English America before pushing up the James River to establish Jamestown. This historic event is reflected in the name of Virginia's most visited state park.

The park offers recreational activities and opportunities to explore a unique habitat of lagoons, large cypress trees and rare plants. More than 19 miles of hiking trails wind through the natural area, and guided kayak ecological tours allow exploration of the marshes and bays. Climate-controlled cabins, campsites, picnic areas, boat ramps, kayak rentals and a bicycle trail are also available.

The Chesapeake Bay Center features aquariums and a wet lab operated by the Virginia Marine Science Museum, educational displays, historic exhibits, a camp store, an amphitheater and a Gateways Program regional welcome center.

Special events: Fall Harvest Festival in October. **Under construction:** New campground bathhouses. **Location:** U.S. 60 at Cape Henry in Virginia Beach.

Kiptopeke State Park

Kiptopeke offers recreational access to the Chesapeake Bay along with an opportunity to explore a unique habitat featuring rare animal species, a coastal dune environment and the Atlantic flyway for migratory birds. Full service and tent campsites, a yurt (part cabin-part tent), camping trailers, a boat ramp, a seasonal 24-hour accessible lighted fishing pier, a fish cleaning station, picnic areas, hiking trails, a playground, a beach bathhouse and a guarded swimming beach are available.

Special events: Eastern Shore Birding Festival, October. **Location:** Eastern Shore. Three miles north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel on U.S. Route 13, then west on State Route 704 to park entrance.

Westmoreland State Park

Located on the Potomac River's Northern Neck, this park offers many opportunities for family fun - an Olympic size swimming pool and adjacent bathhouse, meeting area, snack bar, camp store, launching ramp for power boats, visitor center, campgrounds, cabins, fishing pier, boat rentals and six miles of trails. Fossil collectors enjoy hunting for shark teeth spotting American bald eagles, ospreys, kingfishers, great blue herons, common terns, green herons and gulls, as well as wintering waterfowl. The Potomac River Retreat is an overnight center suitable for extended family reunions and other small gatherings of up to 16. Its waterfront location provides docking space at a boathouse.

Location: 5 miles northwest of Montross, just off State Route 3.

York River State Park

This park is known for its rare and delicate estuarine environment, where freshwater and saltwater meet to create a habitat rich in marine and plant life. Taskinas Creek and the surrounding marsh are designated as a Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The park is also an interesting and important part of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail.

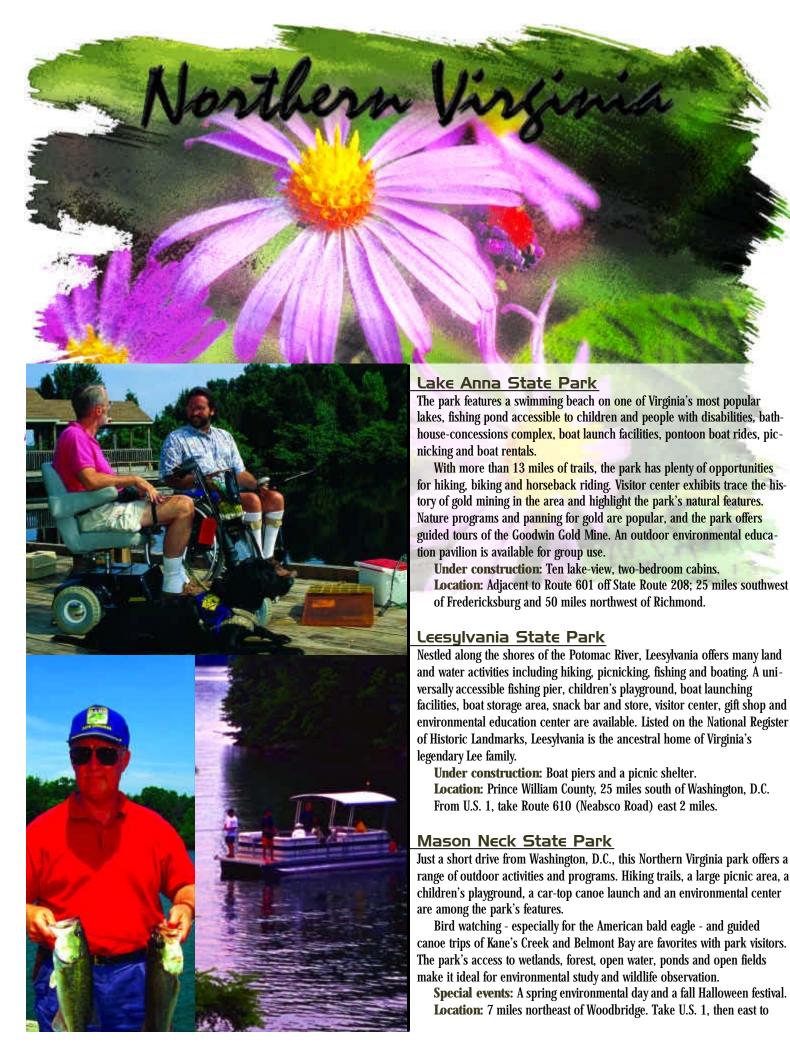
Activities and visitor center displays focus on the history, use and preservation of the York River and its marshes. More than 25 miles of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails allow visitors to explore the marsh, river shoreline and forests. A boat ramp, fresh- and saltwater fishing, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and seasonal bike, boat and recreational equipment rentals are available.

Special events: Estuaries Day in September and Harvest Day in October. **Under construction:** A fishing pier.

Location: From Interstate 64, take the Croaker exit, 231-B. Go north on State Route 607 for 1 mile, then right on State Route 606 to the park entrance.



1-800-933-PARK www.dcr.state.va.us



Shenaydoah Valley

Douthat State Park

A traditional family park for more than 60 years, Douthat is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the role its design played in the development of parks nationwide.

Amid some of Virginia's most breathtaking mountain scenery, visitors can enjoy interpretive programs, a conference facility, two miles of stream fishing, a 50-acre lake stocked with trout, a sandy swimming beach with snack bar, boat and bicycle rentals, a gift shop and camp store, cabins, more than 40 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, a 100+ seat amphitheater, playgrounds, picnic areas, tent and trailer camping, and a restaurant overlooking the lake.

The park also features two completely furnished lodges that accommodate 15 and 18 guests.

Special events: Car Show, Craft Fair and Apple Day, March for Parks, Santa's Christmas Party.

Under construction: Equestrian camping area.

Location: Northeast of Clifton Forge. Exit 27 off Interstate 64 to State Route 629, then 5 miles north.

Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River State Park

Situated on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River with more than 1,600 acres along 5.2 miles of shoreline, the park opened in May 1999. A large riverside picnic area with shelters, trails, river access, a scenic overlook and a car-top boat launch make this a popular destination for families, anglers and canoeists alike. Nine primitive riverfront campsites are available with a new full-service bathhouse. With more than 14 miles of trails, the park has plenty of opportunities for hiking, biking and horseback riding, including seasonal guided trail rides. The Indian Hollow Horse Livery operates April 1 - Oct. 31.

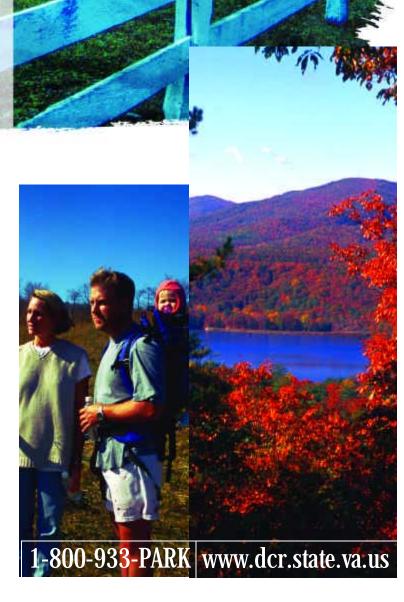
Location: Warren County. Just off U.S. 340 between Front Royal and Luray. Portions of the park border U.S. 340 on the east and the South Fork of the Shenandoah River on the west.

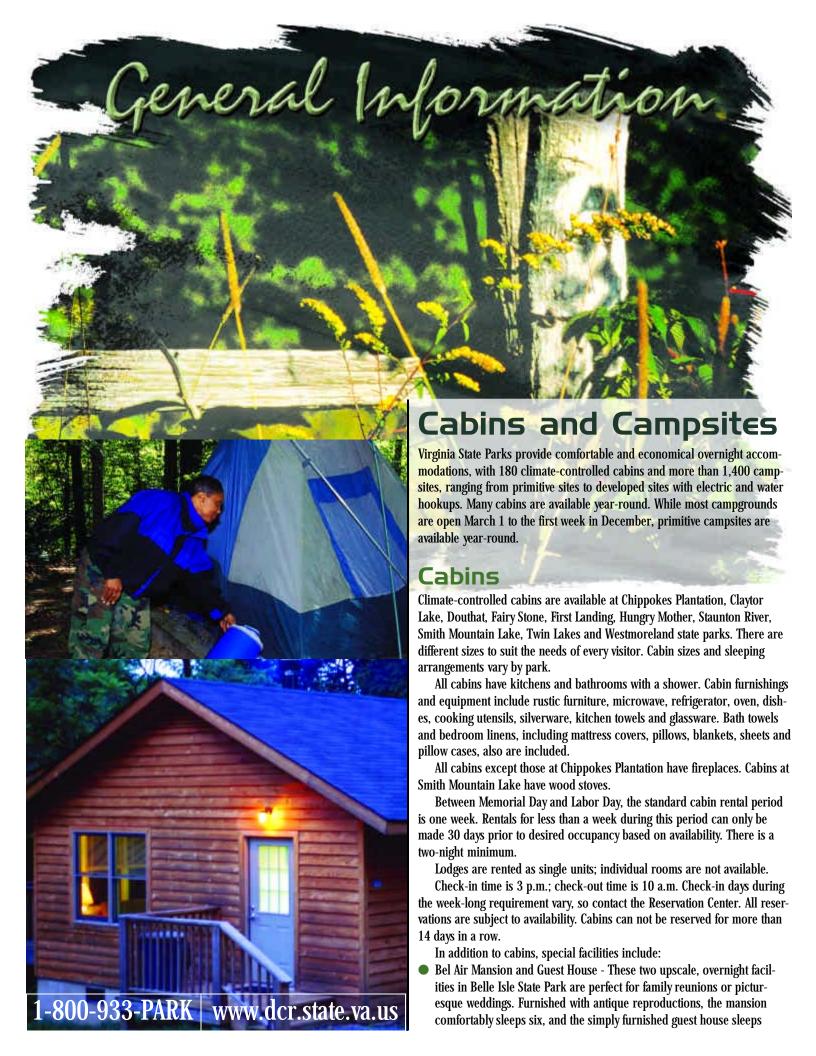
Sky Meadows State Park

Rich in history, this 1862-acre park has scenic vistas, rolling pastures and woodlands. Look into a bygone era by touring the Mount Bleak House and see how a middle-class farm family of the 1850s lived. Nature and history programs are offered during the spring, summer and fall. Hiking, picnicking, fishing, guided trail rides, and primitive hike-in camping for families and groups are favorite activities in this peaceful getaway on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The park offers six miles of bridle trails and 10 miles of hiking trails, which access the Appalachian Trail.

Special event: Strawberry Festival in May.

Location: 2 miles south of Paris. Take U.S. 50 to Route 17 south, or from I-66 take Route 17 north at Exit 23. The park entrance is at Route





- eight. Pets not allowed.
- Douthat State Park Main Lodge Accommodates 13 with maximum occupancy of 15.
- Creasey Lodge at Douthat State Park A one-story frame lodge, with five bedrooms, one with a double bed, and four rooms with two sets of bunk beds each. The lodge can accommodate 18 guests.
- Fairy Stone Lodge A one-story frame lodge with five bedrooms, two
 with queen beds. Three bedrooms have two sets of bunk beds each, and
 the lodge accommodates up to 16 guests.
- Hungry Mother Lodge A mountaintop log lodge with a beautiful view of the park. The five-bedroom lodge accommodates up to 15 and must be seen to be appreciated.
- Potomac River Retreat at Westmoreland State Park Suitable for small gatherings, family reunions, retreats and other special occasions. Can sleep up to 16 comfortably.
- Cove Ridge Center at Natural Tunnel State Park Available for reunions, conferences or business meetings, the two attached dormitories can accommodate up to 30 each. Overnight guests have free use of adjacent swimming pool during normal operating hours. Reservations are handled by the park at (276) 940-2696.
- Westmoreland camping cabins In addition to climate controlled cabins, rustic camping cabins are available at Westmoreland State Park, April through October. Each accommodates four and is furnished with a four-bed, single-bunk arrangement with mattresses, but has no kitchen, bathroom, pillows, towels, blankets or linens. A cook-in grill is provid ed, and occupants have free use of shower and restroom facilities in the nearby camping area.
- Kiptopeke yurt and camping trailers All the fun of camping without the expense of buying equipment! Call 1-800-933-PARK (7275) for details.

Campgrounds

Campgrounds are provided in 22 Virginia State Parks. Site sizes and configurations vary. Some parks provide sites with electric and water hookups, which tend to be larger to accommodate recreational vehicles and campers. Kiptopeke State Park campgrounds also have cable television and sewer hook-ups.

All equipment must remain within the confines of the campsite without impacting natural vegetation. Developed campsites can accommodate six people per site or all members of a household. Designated group camping areas are available at some parks with a minimum of three sites, but all parks can accommodate groups. Primitive group camping is available in nearly every park for scouts and other youth groups interested in conservation issues, with approval of the park manager.

Developed and group campsites have picnic tables, grills and access to bathhouses. Primitive campsites generally have fire grills, picnic tables, vault toilets and non-potable water. Primitive hike-in camping is available at False Cape, New River Trail and Sky Meadows. False Cape prohibits open fires and provides pit toilets and picnic tables. Water at the park is available only at False Cape's Barbour Hill Campground.

Primitive drive-in camping is available at Smith Mountain Lake and James River, and hike-in and canoe-in sites are available at Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River, James River and New River Trail state parks. Belle Isle State Park offers canoe-in campsites. Equestrian camping sites also are available at New River Trail, Grayson Highlands and James River state parks.

The maximum camping period is 14 days. Campers cannot be assured of access to their reserved sites before the reservation start time of 4 p.m. on the scheduled day of arrival. Checkout is 3 p.m.

Reservations for summer weekend camping should be made as early as possible. Except for False Cape, New River Trail and Sky Meadows, specific campsites are assigned upon arrival at the park, not when the reservation is made. Unreserved campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, but reservations are strongly recommended.

Note: False Cape State Park requires reservations. Campers must receive information about camping at the park via mail or fax before their stay. Conditions are primitive and are recommended for experienced campers only. Please call the Reservation Center for details.

Reservations

Reservations for camping, cabins and picnic shelters can be made by calling the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center weekdays at 1-800-933-PARK (7275). Reservations can be made up to 11 months in advance.

The Reservation Center stops taking reservations for the weekend at close of business Thursday.

Camping reservations can also be made online at the DCR website, www.dcr.state.va.us. Online reservations must be made three days in advance, and there is a nominal convenience fee for the service. The availability of campgrounds, cabins and some picnic shelters can be checked online at no charge.

Payments must be made in full to the Reservation Center within 14 days after the reservation is made or prior to the arrival. The reservation counselor will give the payment due date at the time the reservation is made. Online reservations must be paid by credit card when the reservation is made.

Payments can by made by American Express, VISA or MasterCard over the phone (by the card-holder only), or by check or money order. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Virginia State Parks and mailed to: Virginia State Parks Reservation Center, P.O. Box 1895, Richmond, VA 23218-1895. (For a check from a foreign country, please show "U.S. Funds" after the amount.)

Payments can also be made in person at the State Parks Reservation Center, 217 Governor Street, Suite 212, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cancellation Policy Campsites

Cancellations may be made by calling the Reservation Center during operating hours or the park when the Reservation Center is closed. A \$10 per-site cancellation fee will be deducted from paid fees, including each horse stall. Reservation changes must be made through the Reservation Center before the start of the reservation. Early departures once a stay has begun will be charged a penalty of one night.

Cabins, lodges, yurts and camping trailers

Before the scheduled check-in time, cancellations may be made by calling the Reservation Center or the park when the Reservation Center is closed. Cancellations made a month prior to the scheduled arrival date will be charged a \$20 cancellation fee. Cancellations made less than a month before the scheduled arrival date will be charged \$20 per night. The cancellation fee also applies to early departures and reducing the number of nights of the reservation. And the two-night minimum is not refunded. There is no charge to move a stay to another time or park, but this must be done through the Reservation Center and prior to official check-in time. Contact the Reservation Center for the complete refund recalculation policy.

AMENITY	BLU	E RIE)GE H	IIGHI	LAND	S			SHE	NANDO	AH	1	CEN	FRAL	E						
	Breaks Interstate Park	Claytor Lake	Grayson Highlands	Hungry Mother	Natural Tunnel	New River Trail /Shot Tower	Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park	Wilderness Road	Douthat	Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River	Sky Mendows	Bear Greek Lake	Fairy Stone	Holliday Lake	James River	Occoneechee	Pocohontas	Sailor's Creek Battlefield	Smith Mountain Lake	Staunton River Battlefield	Staunton River
Bicycle Trails	•		MB	•8	MB/B	●B		•	MB B	•		MB/B	•	MB	•	B B	•			● B	•
Beat Launching	•	M		•		σ			•	σ		•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•
Boat Rentals	PB	RB/C MT		JB/C PB/K		C/JB			JB/C PB/K			RB/C PB	RE/C	RB/C PB		MT/K PB/C	RB/C PB		MT/C PB		
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Camping	1226	E/W	E/W	E/W	E/W	PC/H			E/W	CI/H	PC/H	E/W	E/W	E/W	PC	E/W	E/W		E/W		E/W
Climate-Controlled Cabins	4	•		•					•				•		UD				•		•
Conference Centers	•			•	•		•	•	•		•		•				•				
Dumping Station	•	•	•	•	•				•			•	•	•	•	•	٠		•		•
Environmental Education Center				•	•										•						
Fishing	FW	FP	FW	FW	FW	FW			FW	FW	FW	FW	FW	FW	FW	FW	FW		FW		FW
Gift Shops		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Groceries			•						•												
Group Camping	16	BP	•	BP	•	PC/H		PC	•	BP	PC/H	BP	•	ВР	BP	BP	•	BP	BP	BP	8P
Hiking Trails	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Motor Boats Permitted		•				•									•	•			•		•
Parking and/or Admission Fee	PE/AF	PF	PF	PF	PE/AF	PF	AF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF		PF		PF
Picknicking	G R	●R	● R	●R	● R	●R	•	•	O R	⊕R	•	● R	● R	● R	O R	● R	●R	•	● R	●R	⊕ R
Playgrounds	•	•	•	•	•	•		UD	•			•	•	•		•	•		•		•
Programs	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Restaurent	•			•					•												
Self-Guided Trails	•	•	•		•		•	•	•		•	•				•	•		•	•	•
Showers	•	•	•	•	•				•			•	•	•		•	•		•		•
Snack Bar	•	•		•	•	•			•			•	•	•		v	•		•		•
Some Facilities for Disabled	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Swimming and Bathhouses	●P	•		•	P				•			•	•	•			P		•		P
Tollets	•	•	•	•	•	PT	•	•	•	PT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	PT	•	•	•
Visitor Center	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	UD			•		•			•			•	•	

Admission Fee AF

В **Bike Rentals**

ВР By Permit

С **Canoe Rentals**

CI **Canoe-In Camping** **Cartop Boat Launch**

E/W Electrical & Water Hookups

FP Fishing Pier

FW Freshwater Fishing

lΗ **Hike-In Camping** HB Hydro-Bikes

HR **Horse Rentals**

JB Jonboat Rentals

Κ **Kayak Rentals** M Marina/Boat Dock MB Mountain Bikes Only

MT Motor Boats

РΒ **Paddleboats**

Р **Pool Swimming**

PC **Primitive Camping**

	NOR	THER	RN	TIDEWATER/EASTERN SHORE									
Iwin Lakes	Lake Anna	Leeslyvania	Mason Neck	Belle Isle	Caledon Natural Area	Chippokes Plantation	False Cape	First Landing	Kiptopeke	Westmoreland	York River		
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B/C	MT/C JB/K			MT/C				K		RB/K PB	RB/C PB		
•	•			•		•					•		
/W	UD			а		E/W	PC/H	•	E/W/S	E/W	CI PC		
	UD			•		•		•	RT/Y	•			
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•	BP	BP	BP	BP	BP	•	PC/H	•	•	•	BP PC		
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F	PF	PF	PF	PF		AF		PF	PF	PF	PF		
R	●R	●R	•	●R	●R	●R	•	●R	●R	●R	●R		
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F Parking Fe	e
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^oT Pit Toilets

T Rental Trailers

- Sewer Hookups
- SW Saltwater Fishing
- **UD Under Development**
- Vending Machines
- / Yurts

Natural Area Preserves	Birding & Wildlife Watching	Boardwalk	Canoe Trail	Hiking	Observation Deck	Parking	Self-Guided Trails	Toilets
NORTHERN VIRGINIA								
Bull Run Mountains****	•			•		•		
BLUE RIDGE HIGHLANDS								
Buffalo Mountain	•			•		•		
Goshen Pass	•			•		•		
Pinnacle	•			•		•		
SHENANDOAH								
Poor Mountain	٠			•		•		
CENTRAL								
Chuh Sandhill	•			•	•	•		
TIDEWATER/EASTERN SHORE								
Bethel Beach	•					•		
Bush Mill Stream	•			•	•	•	•	
Cape Charles Coastal Habitat *	•	•				•		
Cumberland Marsh ***	•	•		•	•	•	•	
Dameron Marsh	•	•			•	•		
Hickory Hollow **	•					•	•	
Hughlett Point	•		•	•	•	•	•	
New Point Comfort ***	•	•			•	•		
North Landing River classed in 2004	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Owned by Northampton County

* Owned by Northern Neck Audubon Society

*** Owned by the Nature Conservancy

**** Owned by Virginia Outdoors Foundation

In 1990 DCR began managing a system of special lands known as Natural Area Preserves. These lands provide suitable habitat for rare or declining plant and animal species and exemplify unique, rare natural communities, some types of which are found nowhere else on earth. The preserves serve as a link between our busy, modern world and the natural wilderness of the past.

DCR works hard to restore and maintain these special places and protect them from inappropriate human disturbance. Still, there is much to be learned and enjoyed in these exceptional, natural settings. That's why 15 of the system's preserves have public access facilities of some type (see chart above for details). Learn more about Natural Area Preserves by visiting www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/preserv.htm

or call DCR's Natural Heritage Program at (804) 786-7951.

1-800-933-PARK www.dcr.state.va.us

Picnic Reservations Available

RB Rowboat Rentals

Virginia State Darly and Natural Areas

State Park Information or Reservations I-800-933-PARK

Shenandoah

- 1. Douthat State Park (540) 862-8100
- 2. Goshen Pass Natural Area Preserve (540) 862-8100
- 3. Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve (540) 265-5234
- 4. Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River State Park (540) 622-6840
- 5. Sky Meadows State Park (540) 592-3556

Northern Virginia

- 6. Lake Anna State Park (540) 854-5503
- 7. Leesylvania State Park (703) 670-0372
- 8. Mason Neck State Park (703) 550-0960
- 9. Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve (703) 753-2631



Tidewater and Eastern Shore

- 10. Belle Isle State Park (804) 462-5030
- 11. Bethel Beach Natural Area Preserve (804) 445-9117
- 12. Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve (804) 445-9117
- 13. Caledon Natural Area (540) 663-3861
- 14. Cape Charles Coastal Habitat Natural Area Preserve (757) 787-5576
- 15. Chippokes Plantation State Park (757) 294-3625
- 16. False Cape State Park (757) 426-7128
- 17. First Landing State Park (757) 412-2300
- 18. Hickory Hollow Natural Area Preserve (804) 445-9117
- 19. Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve (804) 445-9117
- 20. Kiptopeke State Park (757) 331-2267
- 21. New Point Comfort Natural Area Preserve (804) 445-9117
- 22. North Landing River Natural Area Preserve Closed for 2004
- 23. Westmoreland State Park (804) 493-8821
- 24. York River State Park (757) 566-3036
- 25. Cumberland Marsh Natural Area Preserve (804) 445-9117

Central

- 26. Bear Creek Lake State Park (804) 492-4410
- 27. Chub Sandhill Natural Area Preserve (757) 925-2318
- 28. Fairy Stone State Park (276) 930-2424
- 29. Holliday Lake State Park (434) 248-6308
- 30. James River State Park (434) 933-4355
- 31. Occoneechee State Park (434) 374-2210
- 32. Pocahontas State Park (804) 796-4255
- 33. Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park (434) 392-3435
- 34. Smith Mountain Lake State Park (540) 297-6066
- 35. Staunton River Battlefield State Park (434) 454-4312
- 36. Staunton River State Park (434) 572-4623
- 37. Twin Lakes State Park (434) 392-3435 Cedar Crest Conference Center • (434) 767-2398

Blue Ridge Highlands

- 38. Breaks Interstate Park (276) 865-4413
- 39. Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve (276) 676-5673
- 40. Claytor Lake State Park (540) 643-2500
- 41. Grayson Highlands State Park (276) 579-7092
- 42. Hungry Mother State Park (276) 781-7400 Hemlock Haven Conference Center • (276) 781-7425
- 43. Lick Creek Natural Area (276) 781-7400
- 44. Natural Tunnel State Park (276) 940-2674 Cove Ridge Center • (276) 940-2696
- 45. New River Trail State Park and Shot Tower (276) 699-6778
- 46. Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve (276) 676-5673
- 47. Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park (276) 523-1322
- 48. Wilderness Road State Park (276) 445-3065

For more information write to:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation 203 Governor St., Suite 302

Richmond, VA 23219

or call (804) 786-1712

www.dcr.state.va.us



Department of Conservation & Recreation

CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES